

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 ACDA-07 SSC-01 /078 W
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P R 230840Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6764

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KIM TONG-CHO APPOINTED TO BLUE HOUSE POST

1. THE ROKG ANNOUNCED APRIL 22 THE APPOINTMENT OF FORMER ROK FOREIGN MINISTER KIM TONG-CHO AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE POST FORMERLY HELD BY THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER, CHAE KYU-HA. KIM HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN IN DISFAVOR WITH THE BLUE HOUSE BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL CRITICISM DIRECTED AT HIS FOREIGN POLICY OF FIGHTING THE NORTH KOREANS ON SUCH UNFAVORABLE GROUND AS THE LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HIS RE-EMERGENCE IN EFFECT MEANS ROK CHAIN OF COMMAND WILL HAVE FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS (INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT), AS WELL AS SIGNALLING THE RETURN TO A POSITION OF INFLUENCE OF AN ADVOCATE OF CONFRONTATION WITH NORTH KOREA IN THE UNGA.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON DESCRIBED APPOINTMENT AS "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY" FOR KIM TONG-CHO. CHONG SAID NEW FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN HAD BEEN TOO QUICK TO URGE CHANGE IN UN POLICY AND IS NOW EMBARRASSED BY HIS INABILITY TO SELL THE CHANGE TO KOREA'S ALLIES. KIM TONG-CHO REPRESENTS OPPOSITE POINT OF VIEW AND WILL, GIVEN STRENGTH OF FEELING ON PART OF ROK ALLIES, BE IN
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EXCELLENT POSITION TO HAVE HIS POSITION VINDICATED, ACCORDING

TO CHONG.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition History: n/a
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Type: TE
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